

Wray
English II
Of Mice and Men: Expository Essay

An expository essay is one that analyzes, informs, and explains. For this essay, you will take an educated stand on a meaningful and interesting topic and support this idea with examples, quotations, and facts. This is the type of essay you wrote last year both for *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Your final draft must be 3 pages maximum, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman.

Prompt One:

Several of the characters in *Of Mice and Men* are alienated due to race, age, infirmity, or otherwise. Discuss the notion of alienation in the novel, considering who is alienated and why.

Prompt Two:

Of Mice and Men is a novel based largely on character. Discuss which character you hold the most sympathy for by the end of the novel and explain how Steinbeck creates sympathy for this character.

Prompt Three:

Steinbeck depicts a predominantly male world in *Of Mice and Men*. Discuss Curley's wife's role in this world, focusing on how Steinbeck characterizes her and how this characterization ties into the novel as a whole.

Prompt Four:

Articulate a theme of the novel and discuss the way in which Steinbeck illustrates the theme. What does the novel say, ultimately, about this theme? Consider plot, character, conflict, and setting in your response.

You need to complete the following as part of your essay writing process:

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| 1) brainstorm/thesis | due _____ |
| 2) outline | due _____ |
| 3) rough draft | due _____ |
| 4) peer edit | |
| 5) final draft with title page and clear revisions | due _____ |

The grading criteria on the final draft will be the **six traits of writing**:

Ideas/Content	12 points
Organization	12 points
Voice	6 points
Word Choice	6 points
Sentence Fluency	6 points
Conventions	6 points
Process Pieces (listed above)	12 points
Total Points Possible	60 points